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Auk
April

any such grouping as 'Picariæ' implies; but if I should break up this conventional assemblage, I should not know what to do with the fragments; . . . The A. O. U. ignores the major group, and presents instead three orders—Coccyges, Pici, and Macrochires. With this procedure I have no quarrel, as the three are precisely coincident with my three suborders, Cuculiformes, Piciformes, and Cypseliformes."

Part IV, 'Systematic Synopsis of the Fossil Birds of North America' (pp. 1087-1097), brings this important feature of the work also down to the close of the year 1899. An index of 48 pages, three columns to the page, completes this masterpiece of mature ornithological work, which alone would long keep green the memory of its gifted author.

In the way of criticism, we note with some surprise the fact that the matter relating to the general anatomy of birds is left as published in 1884, notwithstanding the many important contributions to the subject since that date. We cannot help feeling that if Dr. Coues had lived to carry the new 'Key' through the press this part of the work would also have received due revision at his hands. In regard to the publishers' share in the work, they have certainly been liberal in their expenditure for illustrations, but unfortunately the paper selected for the work is poorly adapted for the reproduction of half-tones in the text, and many of Mr. Fuertes's beautiful drawings have suffered sadly in the printing. Also, as already said, it is a decided inconvenience to have the 'Key' issued as a two-volume work, and it is to be hoped that when the next edition is called for it will be found practicable to use both a lighter-weight and a smoother-finished paper, so as to give greater sharpness to the half-tones and at the same time render it practicable to issue the work in a single volume. If the two volume form should seem necessary, it would be a great convenience to have the index inserted in both volumes.

In regard to the 'Key' itself, it is a well-known and an old favorite, whose thirty years of practical usefulness have won for it unstinted and well-merited praise, and in its new form will prove for many years to come a boon alike to the amateur and the professional student of North American birds. The 'Key' of 1872 was an innovation and an experiment in ornithological literature; its practicability was evident from the outset, and it proved to be the forerunner of almost numberless successors of 'key' manuals in various departments of zoölogy. The author's final revision of this greatest of his many contributions to ornithological literature will make a new generation of bird students his debtors and admirers.—J. A. A.

Chapman's 'Color Key to North American Birds.'¹—The sole purpose of the present book, according to the author, is "the identification of

¹Color Key to | North American Birds | By | Frank M. Chapman | Associate Curator of Ornithology and Mammalogy | in the American Museum of

the bird in the bush,"—that is, to assist the many who aspire to a knowledge of the names of the wild birds they see about them, but who are deprived of access to specimens. For this purpose tinted figures, giving in color those markings which most quickly catch the eye, are given on the margin of the pages opposite the descriptions, which latter are brief, giving only the most prominent characteristics of the species and subspecies, and (in smaller type) a concise statement of their ranges, without biographical matter. A short introduction tells 'How to learn a Bird's Name' and 'How Birds are Named,' followed by a 'Synopsis of Orders and Families of North American Birds' (pp. 9-40), illustrated with figures of bills, feet, heads, etc., mostly life-size. Then follows the 'Color Key' to the species (pp. 41-255), with full length colored figures in the text. The orders are arranged in the sequence of the A. O. U. Check-List, but the species within the orders have been grouped according to their color markings, for convenience of illustration. Each species, however, is designated by the A. O. U. number, and at the close of the 'Key' is a 'Systematic Table' (pp. 257-289), giving the classification and nomenclature of the A. O. U. Check-List, including both the common and the scientific names. The drawings are in every way creditable, but the coloring is not put forth as giving "perfect reproductions of every shade and tint of the plumage of the species, but aims to present a bird's characteristic colors as they appear when seen at a distance." The author and the artist are both to be congratulated on the very satisfactory manner in which they have performed their respective tasks, whereby the student of 'birds in the bush' has been presented with seemingly as efficient an aid as can readily be conceived. The paper and presswork, however, are not satisfactory, and it is hoped will be materially improved in the later editions, for which there will most surely be demand.—J. A. A.

Dawson's 'The Birds of Ohio.'—The title-page¹ of this excellent work

Natural History | Author of "Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America," | "Bird-Life," Etc. | With Upward of 800 Drawings | by | Chester A. Reed, B. S. | New York | Doubleday, Page & Company | 1903.—8vo, pp. vi+312, colored frontispiece, and about 800 text cuts, the greater part colored.

1 The Birds of Ohio | a complete, scientific and | popular Description of the 320 Species of Birds | found in the State | By | William Leon Dawson, A. M., B. D. | With Introduction and Analytical Keys | by | Lynds Jones, M. Sc. | Instructor in Zoology in Oberlin College. | Illustrated by 80 plates in color-photography, and more than 200 | original half-tones, showing the favorite haunts of the | birds, flocking, feeding, nesting, etc., from photo- | graphs taken by the author and others. | Sold only by subscription | Columbus | The Wheaton Publishing Co. | 1903 | All rights reserved.—4to, pp. i-xvi+1-671, 80 three-color process plates and 200 + half-tone text cuts. Author's edition, 1000 numbered autograph copies, full morocco, full gilt.